

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Prior to this amendment, claims 1 – 9 were pending. Claims 10 – 20 were canceled previously in response to a restriction requirement. In this amendment, claim 1 is amended, and no claims are added or canceled. Therefore, upon entry of this amendment, claims 1 – 9 will remain pending.

Claim Rejections -35 USC § 103

Claims 1, 2, and 4-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 1 03(a) as being unpatentable over Masato (JP 3339792).

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Masato in view of Kobayashi (JP 2003-340648).

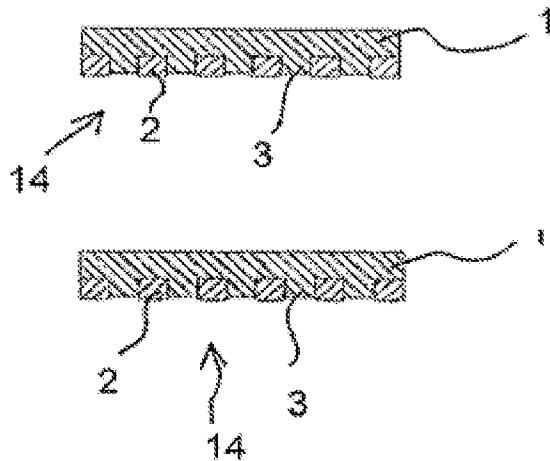
Claim Amendment

Claim 1 is amended to further clarify the recited embodiment and now recites,

1. (Currently Amended) An electrode tool for electrochemical machining comprising:

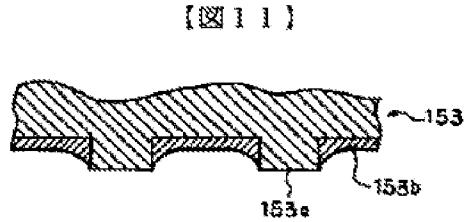
an electrode substrate including a machining electrode surface;
a conductive pattern defined by a plurality of lands and grooves formed on the machining electrode surface;
an insulating resin molded integrally with the electrode substrate and filled into the grooves of the conductive pattern,
wherein *the lands define a surface of the conductive pattern that is below recessed from a surface of the insulating resin filled into the grooves of the conductive pattern*, and
a height difference between the surface of the conductive pattern and the surface of the insulating resin is between 1 and 5 μm .
(Emphasis added)

Here, Applicants have replaced the word “below” with “recessed from.” Support for the amendment can be found in the specification and drawings, e.g., paragraphs [0035] and [0043] and also in FIGS. 3E and 4E which are reproduced below and clearly show *conductive pattern 3 is recessed from the surface of insulating resin 2*. No new matter is introduced.



Applicants submit that Masato does not disclose or teach all the features of claim 1. For example, Masato does not disclose or teach *wherein the lands define a surface of the conductive pattern that is recessed from a surface of the insulating resin filled into the grooves of the conductive pattern*.

In contrast, Masato teaches the opposite, i.e., *Masato teaches that the electrode project from the nonconductive material*. Specifically, Masao states in paragraphs 45 that "the electrode exposure areas 153a are made to project from the nonconductive material 153b." This is also clearly shown in Masato's Figure 11, which is reproduced below.



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In addition, Kobayashi does not provide what Masato lacks. Therefore, for at least the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 1 – 9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,

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